



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA EARLY STEPS 25th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, September 2018 marks the 25th anniversary of Florida's Early Steps program in the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services; and

WHEREAS, the first three years of a child's life are crucial for a child's future development; and

WHEREAS, Early Steps annually provides family-centered early intervention services to over 30,000 infants and toddlers, age birth to 36 months, with disabilities, developmental delays, and at-risk conditions; and

WHEREAS, Local Early Steps programs in 15 geographic regions ensure Florida's eligible children are served where they live, learn, and play and families are empowered to help their children reach developmental milestones; and

WHEREAS, partnerships among state agencies, physicians, other private care providers, caregivers, and families of children with disabilities help to ensure the availability, quality, and effectiveness of early intervention services; and

WHEREAS, over 92 percent of families served by Early Steps reported that the program positively impacted their ability to help their child develop and learn; and

WHEREAS, the Governor appointed the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers to advise and assist Florida's Early Steps program in its responsibilities to ensure the statewide network of programs serving this population is coordinated and comprehensive; and

WHEREAS, Florida's 25th anniversary of Early Steps will provide an opportunity to increase awareness among Floridians about the importance of early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities, developmental delays, and at-risk conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all celebrating September 2018 as *Florida Early Steps 25th Anniversary*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 16th day of August, in the year two thousand eighteen.



Governor